

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system using satellite  
2 communication, wherein  
3 a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a conference is  
4 broadcasted, via a communication satellite, to a plurality of conference participants  
5 each having a satellite communication terminal including receiving means for  
6 receiving a signal from said communication satellite, and comprising:  
7 a conference center which is connected to a satellite earth station for  
8 communication with said communication satellite, wherein  
9 said conference center comprises back-way communicating means for  
10 accepting a voice request signal from the conference participant and a comment signal  
11 from the participant to whom a voice is granted,  
12 said content of the comment of the speaker is transmitted to said  
13 communication satellite via said back-way communicating means and said satellite  
14 earth station,  
15 chairperson means for determining the participant, as a speaker, to  
16 whom the voice is to be granted in response to said voice request signal from the  
17 participant, and  
18 means for broadcasting a voice grant signal via said communication  
19 satellite based on identification information of the participant to whom said voice is to  
20 be granted.

1 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2 ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein

3           said conference center further comprises communicating means for  
4       communication through a ground communication network as said back-way  
5       communicating means for the participant having the satellite communication terminal  
6       including no transmitting means to said communication satellite.

1       4. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2       ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein

3           said satellite earth station comprises, as said back-way communicating means  
4       for the participant having the satellite communication terminal including transmitting  
5       means to said communication satellite,

6           satellite communicating means for receiving the voice request signal  
7       communicated via said communication satellite from the participant and the comment  
8       signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted; and

9           means for transferring the signal received by said satellite communicating  
10       means to said conference center.

1       5. (Original) A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 4,  
2       wherein

3           said conference center receives said voice request signal via said back-way  
4       communicating means using said ground communication network or said  
5       communication satellite, and said voice request signal includes identification  
6       information of the participant requesting the voice.

1       6. (Canceled)

1       7. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2       ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 1, wherein

3           the terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted comprises means  
4       for transmitting the comment signal to said conference center via said communication  
5       satellite or said ground communication network based on a predetermined signal

6 format, and

7 said conference center further comprises:

8 means for receiving said comment signal which is transmitted from the  
9 terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted; and

10 means for controlling operation to transmit said received content of the  
11 comment to said satellite earth station and to broadcast the transmitted content via  
12 said communication satellite.

1 8. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2 ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 1, wherein

3 said chairperson means comprises means for controlling operation to broadcast  
4 a comment accepting signal via said communication satellite in a comment accepting  
5 state, and for accepting a request for the comment only in the comment accepting  
6 state.

1 9. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2 ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 1, wherein

3 said chairperson means controls operation to accept a request for the comment  
4 and to grant the voice by predetermined operation based on chairperson's  
5 determination.

1 10. (Original) A satellite communication satellite system according to Claim 8,  
2 wherein

3 said chairperson means further comprises means for automatically controlling  
4 operation to accept the request for the comment and to grant the voice.

1 11. (Original) A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 10,  
2 wherein

3 said chairperson means selectively controls operation to grant the voice in  
4 order of arrival, or operation to set a comment time duration to a predetermined time

5 duration, to automatically deprive the voice when said predetermined time duration  
6 passes, to shift a state to the comment accepting state, and to accept a new request for  
7 the comment.

1 12. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference system according to  
2 ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein

3 said conference center further comprises means for accepting an attendance  
4 notifying signal from the participant in the conference via said back-way  
5 communicating means prior to opening of the conference and for returning an  
6 acceptance confirming signal to said accepted participant in the conference.

1 13. (Original) A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 12,  
2 wherein

3 said conference center further comprises means for distributing a decipher key  
4 used for said conference to all of said participants in the operation to accept the  
5 attendance notifying signal of said participant in the conference and in the operation to  
6 return the acceptance confirming signal.

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference method using  
2 satellite communication, comprising the steps of:

3 broadcasting a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a  
4 conference, via a communication satellite, to a plurality of participants in the  
5 conference having terminals including a function for receiving a signal from said  
6 communication satellite;

7 connecting a conference center to a satellite earth station for communication  
8 with said communication satellite; and

9           accepting a request for the comment and the content of the comment by using  
10 a ground communication network by said conference center for the participant having  
11 a receiving terminal including only a receiving function to said communication  
12 satellite.

1       17. (Canceled)

1       18. (Original) A satellite communication conference method, as a business model,  
2 for presenting a satellite communicating service in a satellite communicating  
3 conference system which comprises a receiving and transmitting terminal including a  
4 receiving and transmitting function to a communication satellite, a receiving terminal  
5 including only a receiving function to said communication satellite, a satellite earth  
6 station for communication via said communication satellite, a conference center  
7 connected to said satellite earth station, a satellite communication network for  
8 connecting said conference center and said receiving and transmitting terminal, and a  
9 ground communication network for connecting said conference center and said  
10 receiving terminal, wherein

11           a content of a comment of a speaker participating in the conference is  
12 broadcasted, via said communication satellite, to a participant having said receiving  
13 and transmitting terminal and to a participant having said receiving terminal, and

14           said conference center comprises means for receiving a voice request signal of  
15 said participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted  
16 via said ground communication network for the participant having said receiving  
17 terminal.

1       19. (Currently amended) A satellite communication conference method ~~system~~  
2 according to Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

3           (1) declaring opening of the conference at the start of the conference via said  
4 communication satellite by a chairperson in said conference center or by a chairperson  
5 connected to said conference center via said ground communication network;

6           (2) receiving declaration for said opening of the conference and transmitting  
7           an attendance notifying signal to said chairperson via said conference center by way of  
8           said ground communication network or said satellite communication network by the  
9           participant having the terminal including the receiving and receiving function to said  
10          communication satellite or the terminal comprising only the receiving function to said  
11          communication satellite;

12          (3) forming a list of the participant in the conference, transmitting the formed  
13          list to said chairperson, and distributing an acceptance confirming signal including a  
14          conference decipher key ciphered by a cipher key designated to each participant in the  
15          conference via said ground communication network or via said satellite  
16          communication network in accordance with a route of said attendance notifying signal  
17          by a chairperson unit in said conference center, and,

18          thereafter, receiving and deciphering a satellite broadcast signal by using the  
19          cipher key, which is distributed by said acceptance confirming signal, by the terminal  
20          of the participant;

21          (4) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said  
22          communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and  
23          starting the conference by said chairperson; and

24          (5) broadcasting the comment of the participant to whom the voice is granted  
25          via said chairperson unit by way of said communication satellite.

1          20. (Original) A satellite communication conference method according to Claim 19,  
2          further comprising the steps of:

3               (6) setting a comment accepting state when the comment is obtained from the  
4               participant, and broadcasting a comment accepting signal by said chairperson;

5               (7) when said comment accepting signal is received, displaying such a fact on  
6               said terminal of the participant, and transmitting the voice request signal to said  
7               conference center via said ground communication network or via said satellite  
8               communication network by the participant desiring to add the comment;

9               (8) selecting one of the participants requesting the comment by said

10 chairperson, and forming the voice grant signal and broadcasting the formed signal via  
11 said communication satellite by said chairperson unit;

12 (9) displaying a comment permitting state by the terminal of the participant to  
13 whom the voice is granted when the voice grant signal is received from said  
14 communication satellite;

15 (10) transmitting the comment signal to said conference center by the  
16 participant of the terminal on which said comment permitting state is displayed;

17 (11) confirming the signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted,  
18 thereafter, forming a broadcast signal including said comment signal, and  
19 broadcasting the formed broadcast signal via said communication satellite by said  
20 chairperson unit;

21 (12) when end of the comment is inputted by said terminal of the speaker,  
22 detecting a comment end signal by said chairperson unit and shifting to the comment  
23 accepting state, or forcedly ending the comment by said chairperson to enter in the  
24 comment accepting state and broadcasting the comment accepting signal by said  
25 chairperson unit; and

26 (13) declaring close of the conference at end of the conference, broadcasting  
27 the declaration via said communication satellite by said chairperson, and  
28 disconnecting a satellite line by said chairperson unit.

1 21. (Original) A satellite communication conference method according to Claim 18,  
2 further comprising the steps of:

3 (A) automatically broadcasting an opening declaring signal via said  
4 communication satellite at scheduled time of start of the conference by said  
5 chairperson unit in the conference center;

6 (B) when said opening declaring signal is received, transmitting an attendance  
7 notifying signal to said chairperson unit from the terminal including the receiving and  
8 transmitting function to said communication satellite or the terminal including only  
9 the receiving function to said communication satellite;

10 (C) forming a list of the participant in the conference and distributing an

11 acceptance confirming signal including a conference decipher key ciphered by a  
12 cipher key designated to each participant in the conference via said ground  
13 communication network or said satellite communication network in accordance with a  
14 route of said attendance notifying signal by said chairperson unit in said conference  
15 center, and,

16 thereafter, receiving and deciphering a satellite broadcast signal by using the  
17 cipher key distributed by said acceptance confirming signal by said terminal of the  
18 participant in the conference;

19 (D) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said  
20 communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and  
21 starting the conference by said chairperson unit;

22 (E) broadcasting a notifying signal in the comment accepting state and waiting  
23 for the voice request signal from the participant by said chairperson unit;

24 (F) selecting one of the participants requesting the comment based on a  
25 predetermined format when said voice request signal is received, and broadcasting the  
26 voice grant signal by said chairperson unit;

27 (G) broadcasting the comment signal of the participant to whom the voice is  
28 granted via said communication satellite;

29 (H) notifying said chairperson unit of return of the voice by broadcasting a  
30 return signal at the end of comment by the speaker, or forcibly depriving the voice,  
31 entering to the comment accepting state, and broadcasting the comment accepting  
32 state by said chairperson unit if a predetermined comment restricting time duration  
33 passes; and

34 (I) broadcasting close of the conference by a close declaring signal if a  
35 predetermined conference time duration passes and disconnecting the satellite line by  
36 said chairperson unit.